

City of San Diego Public Utilities
RESIDENTIAL OUTDOOR WATER CONSERVATION REBATE PROGRAM

Smart Controller Rebate Guidelines
Rebate – Up to \$400

Did you know that more than 50% of the water consumed by most households is used to maintain landscapes and lawns? You can help reduce your outdoor water use, keep your landscape more attractive and healthy--and save money on your water bill--by upgrading to a Smart Controller. City of San Diego Public Utilities Department customers residing in a single family home, duplex, townhome, or condominium that is served by an individual water meter can receive a rebate for upgrading to a Smart Controller. A limited number of rebates are available through a State of California grant and funding from the City's Storm Water Department, and will be distributed on a first come, first-served basis until exhausted. This program is subject to change without prior notification. Read below for program requirements and application process. Rebate check will be sent to the customer of record 6-8 weeks after application and the post-inspection site visit is successfully completed. If you have questions after reading these guidelines, please call 619-533-7485.

Applicant's water account must be in good standing and program requirements must be met to be eligible for rebates. Customer must agree to and sign the application agreement before rebate is administered. Changes related to rebate program must comply with all applicable laws, codes, policies, covenants, conditions, and restrictions.

Rebate Process:

1. **Request an application and schedule a site visit...** Contact the Water Conservation Program at 619-570-1999 to request a rebate application. Schedule a water conservation survey/pre-site inspection. Allow ten days lead time for this pre-site inspection to be completed prior to installation of a Smart Controller.
2. **Have water conservation survey...** A City Water Conservation Program representative will conduct a free residential water conservation survey at your house prior to installation of Smart Controller.
3. **Install Smart Controller and send in your application...** Purchase any Smart Controller on the SWAT (Smart Water Application Technology rating program) approved list of devices and install it (rain sensor must be installed and unit must be properly programmed). Complete the application and return it to the Water Conservation Program with the original sales receipt and/or any original service invoices, and a copy of your water bill.



4. **Have a post- installation visit...** After application is received, a City scheduler will call you to set up a post-installation site visit. A Water Conservation Program representative will verify that the system is properly installed. A consultation on programming the Smart Controller is available for select models from Water Conservation staff during this site visit and is highly recommended.
5. **Receive a rebate...** Allow 6-8 weeks for arrival in the mail.

Program Requirements:

- Smart Controller must be on the pre-approved SWAT list of tested devices (see PDF) to be eligible for a rebate on the purchase price of one device (up to \$400) and installation costs (up to \$200 of the \$400 rebate). Total rebate amount will not exceed the cost of the device and installation, up to a maximum of \$400 per property. Rebate does not apply to signal fee.
- Site must have at least 2,000 SF of existing irrigated landscape area and an existing in-ground irrigation system with at least six (6) operable valves.
- Smart Controller must replace an existing irrigation timer.
- A water conservation survey and/or pre-site inspection may be required. A post-installation site inspection will be required. An on-site consultation at the post-installation site visit will be available to customers interested in learning how to program and operate their Smart Controller (available only for certain types of controllers). This valuable consultation is highly recommended.
- Completed rebate application with attached original receipts, original service invoice from the landscape professional, and a copy of water bill must be submitted to the Water Conservation Program. Do-it-yourself labor costs are not eligible. Receipts from retail store must include store name, purchase date, price, make, and model numbers. If Smart Controller was installed professionally, original service invoice with name of professional (company name), description, cost of device and/or service, and date of service included can be submitted for up to \$200 of the maximum \$400 rebate.



What are Smart Controllers and how do they work?

Smart Controllers, also known as weather based irrigation controllers (WBICs), use site-specific information to automatically adjust the amount of water applied to the landscape. Sensor-based Smart Controllers use on-site weather or solar sensors to create irrigation schedules. Signal-based Smart Controllers rely on daily weather updates received from satellite signals or Internet connection to create schedules.

Benefits of converting to a Smart Controller:

A Smart Controller can reduce outdoor water use by monitoring and using information about site conditions (such as solar radiation, rain, wind, slope, soil, plant type) and applying the right amount of water based on those factors to maintain healthy growing conditions and help reduce unwanted runoff caused by overwatering. By setting the controller for a default maximum watering time, based on the hottest time of year, irrigation run times are automatically reduced by a percentage value when less water is needed. If significant rainfall occurs, the Smart Controller relies on its rain sensor to signal delayed or reduced watering. If the property contains steep slopes or a soil type that absorbs water slowly, the Smart Controller can transmit multiple irrigation start times, so as to deliver water to plants at an efficient rate, while minimizing the potential for run-off.

How much water do Smart Controllers save?

A well-maintained Smart Controller used to irrigate the average home garden can reduce overwatering by an estimated 40 gallons per day.

Costs that are covered by the Smart Controller rebate:

Rebate covers the purchase price of one SWAT approved Smart Controller up to a maximum of \$400 per address. If a landscape professional installs a Smart Controller, the device and installation costs can be rebated up to a maximum of \$400 (up to \$200 of the \$400 can be used to rebate a landscape professional's installation fee). Rebate does not apply to signal fee. Original sales receipt from retail store or original invoice from landscape professional must be submitted with the application. Do-it-yourself installation costs are not eligible for rebate.

